

REMARKS

Claims 2 – 7 are pending in the present application. Paragraph 2 of the Office Action rejects claims 2-4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Paragraph 4 of the Office Action rejects claims 2-4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Paragraph 7 of the Office Action rejects claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over prior art Figure 6 and U.S. Patent No. 4,436,005 to *Hanson*.

Independent claims 2 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The Office Action provides that claims 2 and 7 were amended to include “a socket” as a part of the extension although the pending application “makes no mention of any extension that includes a socket that is used for engagement with a socket and a socket wrench,” and then states that “an extension that includes a socket as an integral part thereof cannot then engage another socket.” Neither independent claim 2 nor 7 recites that the socket is an “integral” part of the extension. Paragraph 9 of the pending application states “the present invention provides a combination of a socket and an extension to solve the drawbacks of the prior art.” Recitation of the socket in the body of the claim merely indicates its inclusion as a claimed element. Applicant has amended independent claims 2 and 7 to alleviate any ambiguities.

Independent claims 2 - 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Office Action provides that it is unclear how a socket extension can include a socket as an integral part and still engage another socket. As discussed above, independent claims 2 and 7 do not recite an “integral” socket. Applicant has amended claims 2 and 7 to more clearly reflect the invention. Independent claims 5 and 6 have also been amended to rectify the noted antecedent basis issues.

Paragraph 5 of the Office Action states that claims 2-4 and 7 were so ambiguous as to preclude a rejection on prior art. Applicant contends that was due primarily to the belief that the recited socket element was claimed as being “integral” to the extension, which as discussed above, was not the case. However, Applicant contends any perceived ambiguities in claims 2-4 and 7 have been rectified and therefore requests their examination in light of the prior art.

Paragraph 7 of the Office action rejects independent claims 5 and 6 over the prior art of Figure 6 and *Hanson*. The Office Action provides that Figure 6 shows the claimed invention except for the use of “a shoulder” to function as a high torque application member and that *Hanson* suggests such a shoulder.

Independent claims 5 and 6 generally call for, among other things, a socket wrench extension including a shoulder formed intermediate the end of the main body and an annular recess of the drive column. The shoulder has a cross section that is larger than the cross section of the drive column recess and smaller than the cross section of the main body. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 5 and 6 since neither prior art Figure 6 nor *Hanson* teaches such a shoulder.

Prior art Figure 6 illustrates an extension 60 having a first end engaged with a socket wrench 61 and a second end having a driving column 64 that engages a socket 62. A recessed section 65 is defined between the driving column 64 and a main body of the extension 60. Socket 62 defines a groove that is sized to receive a detent. The height of the groove is smaller than the height of the drive column that is located below recessed section 65.

Hanson discloses an adapter 10 having a drive shaft 11, a truncated quadrangular pyramid 17 and a square drive end portion 13 intermediate drive shaft 11 and truncated quadrangular pyramid 17. Truncated quadrangular pyramid 17 decreases in size from a first end 13c to square drive end 13. *Hanson* fails to teach or disclose a “shoulder” having a cross section that is smaller than the cross section of the drive shaft (column), as claimed. As seen in Figure 8-10, the square drive end portion 13 has a cross section that is greater than both the drive shaft 11 and the top of the truncated pyramid 13c. Notably, all embodiments disclosed in *Hanson* include a square drive end portion 13 that has a greater cross section than that of the associated drive shaft 11. For at least this reason, the combination of prior art Figure 6 and *Hanson* fails to teach or disclose all of the claimed limitations of independent claims 5 and 6. Moreover, Applicant contends that any combination of a shoulder as is suggested to be taught by *Hanson* with the wrench extension of prior art Figure 6 is improper as hindsight.

The Office Action also provides that it would have been obvious to modify *Hanson* by using concave sections in the socket to engage a ball detent in the extension, as is taught by

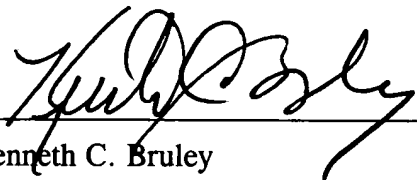
prior art Figure 6. The suggested modification of the torque adapters as taught by *Hanson* fails to render independent claims 5 and 6 obvious for at least the reason that *Hanson* discloses a "shoulder" having a greater cross section than that of the drive shaft, as discussed above. Moreover, the noted modification would not include a socket wrench extension with a cavity adapter to receive a portion of a socket wrench, as claimed in independent claims 5 and 6.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action and withdrawal of the present rejections and objections is, therefore, respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at his convenience to resolve any remaining issues. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1196.

Respectfully submitted,

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